

Session Law 2009-329
Senate Bill 332

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ZOOLOGICAL PARK; TO EXPAND THE UMSTEAD EXEMPTION FOR THE PARK; TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PARK OPERATIONS; TO REQUIRE A REPORTING OF THE PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATES OF THIS ACT; TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA ZOOLOGICAL PARK FUNDING AND ORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE; AND TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE NC ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY INTO THE CITY OF ASHEBORO.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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PART V: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

SECTION 5.1. Committee Established. – The North Carolina Zoological Park Funding and Organization Study Committee is hereby established.

SECTION 5.2. Membership. – The Committee shall consist of 22 members as follows:

- (1) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (2) Five members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (3) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee.
- (4) The Director of the Zoological Park, or the Director's designee.
- (5) The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee.
- (6) The Executive Director of the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development of the Department of Commerce, or the Executive Director's designee.
- (7) The Chair of the North Carolina Zoological Park Council, or the Chair's designee.
- (8) The Chair of the board of directors of the North Carolina Zoological Society, Inc., or the Chair's designee.
- (9) Two additional representatives of the Zoo Society Board, who may be comprised of current or former members, one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Zoo Society Board, one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the Chair of the Zoo Society Board.
- (10) Two representatives from the public at large appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (11) Two representatives from the public at large appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5.3. Cochairs. – The Committee shall have three cochairs, one designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from among their respective appointees. The Committee shall meet upon the call of the cochairs.

SECTION 5.4. Quorum. – A quorum of the Committee shall consist of 10 members.

SECTION 5.5. Vacancies. – Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

SECTION 5.6. Purpose and Duties. – The Committee shall study: (i) funding issues associated with the Zoological Park, including current and expected capital and operational needs, current sources of revenue, and potential funding mechanisms; and (ii) the current organizational structure of the Zoological Park, and other potential organizational structures, including, but not limited to, reorganization as an authority, as a private nonprofit corporation, or other entity to determine which organizational structure would most effectively achieve the mission of the Zoological Park.

SECTION 5.7. Expenses of Members. – Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

SECTION 5.8. Staff. – Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to the Committee to aid in its work.

SECTION 5.9. Consultants. – The Committee may hire consultants to assist with the study as provided in G.S. 120-32.02(b).

SECTION 5.10. Meetings. – The Committee may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services Commission.

SECTION 5.11. Report. – The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly and the Environmental Review Commission on or before May 1, 2010, at which time the Committee shall terminate.

SECTION 5.12. Funding. – From funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the purpose of conducting the study provided for in this act.

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